

# **Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for IAEC**

## **1. Objective:**

The motto of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act 1960 as amended in 1982, is to prevent infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals. The Central Government as enumerated under PCA Act 1960 has constituted a Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) which is duty bound to take all such measures as may be necessary to ensure that animals are not subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering before, during or after the performance of experiments on them. For this purpose, the Government has made “Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998” as amended during 2001 and 2006, to regulate the experimentation on animals.

The objective of this SOP is to contribute to the effective functioning of the Institutional Animals Ethics Committee (IAEC) so that a quality and consistent ethical review mechanism for research on animals is put in place for all proposals dealt by the Committee as prescribed by the CPCSEA under PCA Act 1960 and Breeding of and Experimentation (Control and Supervision) Rules 1998, as amended in 2001 and 2006.

## **2. IAEC has been designed to secure the following objectives:**

- (a) Every experiment shall be performed by or under the supervision of a person duly qualified in that behalf, that is, Degree holders in Veterinary Science or Medicine or Laboratory Animal Science of a University or an Institution recognised by the Government for the purpose and under the responsibility of the person performing the experiment;
- (b) That experiments are performed with due care and humanity and as far as possible experiments involving operations are performed under the influence of some anaesthetic of sufficient power to prevent the animals from feeling pain;
- (c) That animals who, in the course of experiments under the influence of anaesthetics, are so injured that their recovery would involve serious suffering, are ordinarily medically allowed to death while still under influence of anaesthetic;
- (d) That experiments on animals are avoided wherever it is possible to do so.
- (e) That experiments on larger animals are avoided when it is possible to achieve the same results by experiments on small laboratory animals like guinea-pigs, rabbits, mice, rats etc;
- (f) That, as far as possible, experiments are not performed merely for the purpose of acquiring manual skill;
- (g) That animals intended for the performance of experiments are properly looked after before, during and after experiments;
- (h) That suitable records are maintained with respect to experiments performed on animals